



Ruth Ann Tsukuda, MPH, EdD, at recent PADRECC event

Ruth Ann Tsukuda Moves to MIRECC

Ruth Ann Tsukuda, Associate Director of Education, will be leaving the PADRECC in October. For the last four years, she has split her time between the MIRECC and the PADRECC.

Ruth Ann has played a pivotal role in the Northwest PADRECC from its inception. She assisted in the development of the educational component of the proposal for the NW PADRECC which was seen by the review committee as one of its strengths. She planned the PADRECC roadshow - visiting all the VISN 20 facilities to introduce the PADRECC during the first year of operation.

Ruth Ann has had a number of other accomplishments; some of which include the following. She chaired the National PADRECC Educational committee that planned the PADRECC Consortium meeting in Miami in 2002 and played an important part in the National Satellite broadcast on Parkinson's disease. She was instrumental in the development of the multidisciplinary Movement Disorder Clinic in Portland, served as the contact for the clinicians in our PADRECC Service area, created a web page for the program and conceived the Parkinson's Disease Fair. Finally, she completed and defended her EdD thesis this spring.

Ruth Ann's rare insights into the inner workings of the VA as well as innumerable contacts within the VA system nationally benefited the development of the NW PADRECC. We thank her for her contributions and wish her good luck in her new expanded position with the MIRECC.

Calendar Items

VTEL: "Sleep Disorders"

Wed, August 10th, 12-1:00pm
PVAMC, Bldg 101, Rm 109
Steve Gunzler, MD

VTEL: "Lewy Body Dementias"

Wed, August 24th, 12-1:00pm
PVAMC, Bldg 101, Rm 109
Jim Leverenz, MD

PADRECC Exec Meeting

August 25th, Thurs, 8:30-9:30am
PVAMC, Bldg 100, 7D-153

PADRECC Exec Meeting (tentative)

Sept 8th, Thurs, 8:30-9:30am
PVAMC, Bldg 100, 7D-153

VTEL: "Caregiving"

Sept. 14th, Wed, 12-1:00pm
PVAMC, Bldg 101, Rm 109
Julie Carter, MS, ANP

Annual PADRECC Advisory Committee Review

Sept. 15th, Thurs, 1:00-4:00pm
PVAMC, Bldg 101, 7D-153

Pt. Ed.: "Speech & Swallowing"

Sept. 27th, Tuesday, 10-11:00am
Vancouver Campus, Columbia Rm
Sandy Neuberger, Speech Pathologist

PADRECC in PROGRESS

Announcements & Current Events

Susan O'Connor is now recruiting interested folks to join the "PADRECCians" in participating in this year's first annual **PRO Sole Support Fundraising and Awareness Walk for PD**. All are welcome to sign up and join us September 25, 2005 at Willamette Park!

Jeff Kraakevik's falls study is currently being resubmitted to the IRB with changes and should be approved by the end of August. Recruitment is expected to start in September.

PADRECC **patient education** will be expanded in the fall to include bimonthly talks on a variety of topics of interest to patients with movement disorders. The events will be held at both the Vancouver and Portland campuses, and will be video recorded. Tapes will be available for patients and their caregivers through the PADRECC library. A complete schedule for the 2005-06 season will be available in the next Insider. Stay tuned!

Laura Hoskins, MS, has joined the Co-op study team, at both the VA and OHSU, as the new neuropsychology technician. She is in the process of completing her dissertation for a Clinical Psychology PhD at Pacific University. She's an enthusiastic new addition to the research team, and we are happy to have found someone not only with testing experience, but a real interest in PD and neuropsychology. Welcome aboard!

Jane Anau will be returning to the PADRECC in August. She will assist Susan in coordinating Jeff's falls study and the DBS Co-op Study as well as providing IRB assistance for VA studies. **Rebecca Pepper** will also stay on through the academic year (approx 10 hours/week) while attending graduate school to help with PADRECC education activities.

Faculty Accomplishments

Publications, Abstracts & Grants received

Penny Hogarth, MD has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to study the drug tauroursodeoxycholic acid in Huntington's disease. The grant is jointly funded by the Huntington Study Group and the Huntington Society of Canada. It is the first to be awarded in a program that seeks to promote the testing of novel therapeutic compounds in Huntington's disease and to cultivate new investigator leadership for future HSG clinical trials.

Cyrus P. Zabetian, MD was awarded a 1-year grant from the American Parkinson's Disease Association for the study, "A Comprehensive Screen of the LRRK2 Gene in Familial Parkinson's Disease and Dementia with Lewy Bodies."

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Chung KA, Carlson NE, **Nutt JG**. Short-term paroxetine treatment does not alter the motor response to levodopa in PD. Neurology. 2005 May 24;64(10):1797-8.

Anderson VC, **Burchiel KJ**, **Hogarth P**, Favre J, Hammerstad JP. Pallidal vs subthalamic nucleus deep brain stimulation in Parkinson disease. Arch Neurol. 2005 Apr;62(4):554-60.

Shen KZ, **Johnson SW**. Dopamine depletion alters responses to glutamate & GABA in the rat subthalamic nucleus. Neuroreport. 2005 Feb 8;16(2):171-4.

Kraybill ML, Larson EB, Tsuang DW, Teri L, McCormick WC, Bowen JD, Kukull WA, **Leverenz JB**, Cherrier MM. Cognitive differences in dementia patients with autopsy-verified AD, Lewy body pathology, or both. Neurology. 2005 Jun 28;64(12):2069-73.

Zaja-Milatovic S, Milatovic D, Schantz AM, Zhang J, Montine KS, **Samii A**, Deutch AY, Montine TJ. Dendritic degeneration in neostriatal medium spiny neurons in Parkinson disease. Neurology 2005; 64(3):545-7.

Swarztrauber K, Anau J, Peters D. Identifying and distinguishing cases of parkinsonism and Parkinson's disease using ICD-9 CM codes and pharmacy data. Mov Disord. 2005 Apr 15.

Patient Education

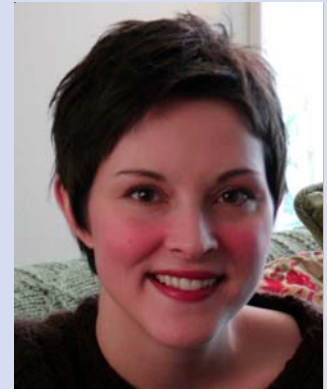


Kudos to **Ron Blehm, PT** for his recent talk on Rehabilitation & PD! With almost 50 veterans and their caregivers in attendance, he provided an informative and inspirational talk on the importance of

exercise. Ron's message of "Exercise IS Medicine" was well received with the majority of the attendees' evaluations noting they found the topic very helpful. This was the first PADRECC event to be held at the Vancouver VA which received positive feedback as well for being a good location for patients. Thanks again Ron for your contribution to the PADRECC!

PADRECC Staff Corner

Team Perspective



Molly Davis, MD
Geripsychiatric Fellow

Molly has spent the last year with the PADRECC program as part of her geriatric psychiatry fellowship. She attended Stanford University and majored in Human Biology, with a focus on the "biologic basis of behavior," which fueled her fascination with how behavior and psychopathology have biologic substrates. She attended medical school at the UW, and did her residency in Psychiatry at OHSU. During her general psychiatry residency, she saw many patients with movement disorders and comorbid psychiatric problems, and became interested in how the two fields overlap, in particular, how drugs used to treat psychiatric disorders can induce movement disorders and how drugs used to treat neurological disorders can induce psychiatric conditions.

Molly elected to work in the movement disorders clinic during her fourth year. While rotating through the PADRECC clinic, she developed a keen interest in clinical evaluation and treatment of patients with movement disorders, especially those with neuropsychiatric complications, such as depression, disabling fatigue and apathy, sleep disorders, dementia, and psychosis. She has found it rewarding to address these issues, which have such a profound impact on patients' quality of lives, and really loves her work!

Having a psychiatrist as part of the multidisciplinary team is a first for the PADRECC clinic. Molly has been an invaluable resource for staff, offering her expertise on complex psychiatric issues, drug treatments and therapies as well as referrals to her mental health clinic. We are fortunate to retain her services for a 2nd year, and it appears the feeling is mutual!